

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM - CAT I CRITERIA

REF: BANGKOK 11512 AND UDORN 2111

PROBLEM FACING US ON CAT I PROCEDURES IS FACT THAT TOTAL CAT I CASELOAD IN THAILAND IS ESTIMATED AT 4,000 PERSONS WHEREAS IT IS NECESSARY TO HOLD BANGKOK'S CAT I QUOTA TO 2500. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THEREFORE, WE MUST REJECT CRITERIA PROPOSED BY EMBASSY BASED ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY, BUT ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION (REF A) THAT SINGLE SONS, DAUGHTERS AND SIBLINGS OF CAT I A PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS BE PROCESSED REGARDLESS OF AGE.

ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE PROCESSING CAT I A (SPOUSES, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, CHILDREN, MINOR UNMARRIED SIBLINGS AND MINOR UNMARRIED GRANDCHILDREN OF U.S. CITIZENS, PRA, AND REFUGEES PAROLED PRIOR TO APRIL
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15). QUALIFYING ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES, HOWEVER, WILL BE

LIMITED TO RELATIVES OF THE SAME DEGREE WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT ALL SINGLE SONS AND DAUGHTERS AND SINGLE SIBLINGS OF CAT I A PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS REGARDLESS OF AGE MAY ALSO BE PROCESSED AS AN ACCOMPANYING RELATIVE.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT ALL QUALIFIED CAT I APPLICANTS MAY EVENTUALLY BE ASSISTED IN RESETTLING OUT OF THAILAND. WE SEE THIS AS A POSSIBILITY UNDER THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS. EMBASSY REPORTS A REJECTION RATE OF 10 PER CENT WHICH COULD TOTAL 400 PERSONS IF CONTINUED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO INDICATED SOME CAT I B PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS WOULD QUALIFY UNDER CAT III. IF THE FULL PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTENDED PROGRAM OF 11,000 IS APPROVED, WE BELIEVE SUCH APPLICANTS SHOULD BE PROCESSED AS CAT III. THESE APPLICANTS, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE FULLY QUALIFIED FOR CAT III. WE NOTE ALSO THAT AN INDETERMINATE NUMBER OF CAT I B MAY BE OFFERED RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. REMAINING CAT I B WOULD BE MATERIALLY REDUCED BY ALL THE FOREGOING, IN WHICH CASE WE SEE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ENTIRE CAT I CASELOAD CAN BE ACCOMMODATED.

FINALLY, WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF CAT I A APPLICANTS, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE U.S. PROGRAM THAT IF THEY ARE OFFERED A FIRM RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITY IN A THIRD COUNTRY AND REJECT THAT OFFER, THEY WILL FORFEIT THEIR CLAIM TO CONSIDERATION UNDER THE U.S. PROGRAM. ONE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT OF THIS POSITION IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF THAI DAM I B APPLICANTS AND OTHERS MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO ACCEPT OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE. IT SHOULD BE MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL ETHNIC GROUPS AND TO ALL CATEGORIES OF APPLICANTS EXCEPT TO CAT I A. THE DEMAND FOR RESETTLEMENT IS FAR GREATER THAN THE COMBINED OPPORTUNITIES AND IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE REFUGEE THE LUXURY OF A CHOICE, DESIRABLE AS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE. SISCO

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